



United States Capitol Visitor Center

Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol, March 17, 2003

This Month – March 2003

East Front (Inside the Capitol)

- **The 2nd and 3rd Floor corridors within the East Front are now closed to pedestrian traffic.** Barrier walls will be erected during the week to completely seal the construction zone and to clear the way for CVC construction activity, including improvements to vertical mobility (new elevators and stairwells) within the Capitol. **The elevators at each end of the construction zone, H-10 on the House side, S-7 on the Senate side, ARE OUT OF SERVICE.** The stairwells next to each elevator will remain accessible throughout construction and will continue to serve as emergency access routes.
- **The Basement corridor within the East Front Extension will be closed beginning March 31, 2003.** All East Front corridors affected by construction will be re-opened near the final completion stage of the CVC in 2005. Additional details will be provided through Capitol Superintendent Building Notices and CVC construction notices, as well as postings in the affected corridors
- Information related to new staff-led tour routes has been distributed to all offices. Additional information is being distributed by the Capitol Guide Service at the entrances to the Cannon and Russell Tunnels.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 3/17/03 through 3/21/03

- This week, test pits will continue to be excavated along portions of East Capitol Street to accommodate CVC utility work. Work began near First Street and is continuing eastward toward Second Street. Impacts of this work on parking have been coordinated with the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress. Traffic will be constricted at times around the construction zone but traffic flow in both directions will be maintained at all times.
- Significant tunnel construction activity continues in New Jersey Avenue NW, along Constitution Ave. NW, along upper Northwest Drive and on the East Front Plaza (details provided below).

East Front Plaza Work

- Site excavation continues on the Senate side within the northeast corner of the site.
- Construction of the CVC foundation walls is nearly complete on both the House and Senate sides of the site.

House Side

- Crews will continue construction of a CVC tunnel connector to the existing Cannon Tunnel near the House Steps and Carriageway. A new drive loop and Member drop-off area have been established just south of the existing drive loop and Member drop-off area. **The Carriageway Door, the House Door and the House Steps will remain accessible at all times.** At the completion of the tunnel work, which is expected in three to four months, the drive loop will revert to its current alignment adjacent to the House Carriageway.

Senate Side (Outside the Main Construction Fence)

Tunnel Construction:

- A second crane has been assembled within the tunnel construction zone on the East Front Plaza. The 90-foot high crane will support large counter-rotating drill bits (augers) that will be used for excavation.
- CVC tunnel construction work continues on the East Front Plaza adjacent to and within the Senate triangular parking area. The tunnel construction work on the Plaza will continue until December 2003.

- Excavation work related to the CVC service tunnel continues in Constitution Avenue NW just east of the intersection of New Jersey Avenue NW. The tunnel work in this zone will continue for several months.
- CVC tunnel construction work continues along the east side of New Jersey Avenue NW between Constitution Avenue and C Street. The east sidewalk in this location will continue to be closed, but the west sidewalk is accessible. The street will continue to be restricted to one lane and one way traffic traveling southbound.

Senate-Side Utility Work:

- CVC utility work along Second Street NE, between Massachusetts Ave. NE and D Street NE is expected to be completed at the end of the week. Detour signs will be removed and normal traffic flow will resume. However, Washington Gas may resume work one week later to repair a gas line in this zone. This work will impact the intersection of Second Street and D Street NE for approximately four days. More specific information will be distributed later this week as a work plan is finalized.
- The North Door, the Senate Steps and the Senate Carriageway Door remain accessible to pedestrians throughout construction.

Next Week – Anticipated Work – 3/24/03 through 3/28/03

East Front

- **Preparations will continue for the closure of the Basement corridor within the East Front Extension on March 31, 2003.** Some wayfinding signs have already been posted in the basement to facilitate staff-led tours, but additional signage will be posted as the closure date nears. The stairwells at each side of the construction zone will remain accessible throughout construction and will continue to serve as emergency access routes.

East Front Plaza Work

- Excavation and foundation wall construction will continue on both the Senate and House sides of the CVC construction site. Some large equipment will continue to be situated close to the east face of the Capitol building. The East Front facade is being protected by a protective tarp that is being suspended from the Capitol roof along the portion of the building where excavation work is occurring.
- Major excavation of the site continues on the Senate side within the northeast corner of the site.
- Test pits will continue to be excavated along portions of East Capitol Street to accommodate CVC utility work.

House Side (Outside the Construction Fence)

- Crews will continue construction of a CVC connector tunnel to the existing Cannon Tunnel near the House Steps. The Carriageway Door, the House Door and the House Steps will remain accessible at all times.

Senate Side (Outside the Construction Fence)

- CVC tunnel work will continue in a portion of the East Front Plaza on the Senate side, Northwest Drive, along New Jersey Avenue NW, and in Constitution Avenue NW, just east of New Jersey Avenue NW.
- Utility work is expected to be complete along Second Street NE between Massachusetts Avenue NE and D Street NE. However, during the following week, Washington Gas may resume work in the intersection of Second Street and D Street NE, which may last four days. Additional information will be distributed as a work-plan is finalized.

*- If you have any questions about the Capitol Visitor Center Project, please contact **Tom Fontana**, CVC Project Communications Officer for the Architect of the Capitol, at (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at: tfontana@ao.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on our web site at www.aoc.gov.*

- If you experience any problems to building services inside the Capitol, please contact the Capitol Building Service Center at (202) 228-8800.